

RESOLUTION NO. RS2018-1512

A resolution proclaiming December as “Veterans Suicide Awareness Month” in Nashville and Davidson County.

WHEREAS, suicide is the 10th-leading cause of death in the United States, and veteran suicide is a national concern; and

WHEREAS, veterans face a disproportionate risk of suicide when compared to the general population; and

WHEREAS, according to the most recent U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs study, approximately 20 veterans die by suicide every day in the United States; and

WHEREAS, there were more than 6,000 veteran suicides each year from 2008 to 2016, and the suicide rate in 2016 was 1.5 times greater for veterans than for non-veteran adults; and

WHEREAS, from 2005 to 2016, veteran suicide rates increased by 25.9 percent; and

WHEREAS, younger veterans are at greater risk of suicide, especially those who served on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, the suicide rate for veterans ages 18-34 substantially increased from 2005 to 2016, and when comparing suicide rates by age group, veterans ages 18-34 had the highest suicide rate in 2016, at 45 per 100,000; and

WHEREAS, the risk of suicide can be reduced through awareness, educational efforts, adequate resources, and treatment, as well as through the promotion of protective factors that can offset the risk of suicide, such as positive coping skills, feeling connected to other people, and access to mental health care; and

WHEREAS, a prevention resource, the Veterans Crisis Line, is a free, anonymous, confidential online resource available for any service member or veteran in crisis; and

WHEREAS, suicide is a national public health concern that affects each and every person in some way, and it is imperative that the community unite to bring awareness to this issue and help protect veterans from such a tragic fate; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Metropolitan Council recognize the month of December as “Veterans Suicide Awareness Month” to increase awareness about this critical issue and help further reduce veterans’ risk of suicide.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. The Metropolitan Council hereby goes on record as proclaiming December as “Veterans Suicide Awareness Month” in Nashville and Davidson County and encourage all citizens to recognize the gravity of suicide, and the actions each person can take to protect those at risk.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

INTRODUCED BY:

Mike Freeman

Tanaka Vercher
Members of Council